experts to Madhya Pradesh to find out the exact nature of the disease; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to check the spread of this disease in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) According to the information available with the Indian Council of Medical Research, Dr. S. Grover, Prof. of Pathology, Nagpur Medical College, has diagnosed the disease as 'Kaposi's Sarcoma' on the basis of biopsy conducted by her on Shri Ganesh Somvar. ICMR have sought all the details for reviewing the diagnoses and taking further appropriate action.

Import of Palm Oil

*37. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of palm oil imported during the years 1989-90 and 1990-91 indicating its value in faoreign exchange; and

(b) what are the agencies entrusted with its import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The quantity and value of imported Refined Palmolein in indicated below:—

Financial Year	Quantity (Lakh MT)	CIF Value (Rs. crores)
1989-90	2.96	203.60
1990-91	5.38	349.95

(b) State Trading Corporation was entructed with the above imports.

Publication of the writings of Rabindranath Tagore

*38. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the copy rights vested with Vishwa Bharti for the publication of the writings of Rabindranath Tagore are going to terminate on the completion of the 50th year of the death of the poet; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure authentic publication of his writings in future?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

As Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore died in 1941, the term of copyright in his works (other than any photographs taken by him) published within his life time will expire on 31st December, 1991 under the provisions of Section 22 of the Copyright Act, 1957. In the case of posthumous publication of any works, the provisions of Section 24 of the Act will apply and the term of copyright will be 50 years from the beginning of the calendar year next following the year in which the work, or any adaptation of it, was first published. However, if he

took any photographs, the term of copyright in them will be 50 years from the date of publication.

The purpose of copyright protection is primarily to protect the interests of authors. All intellectual property laws have to balance the interests of creators on the one hand and society on the other in order to promote creativity. It is, therefore, necessary for the term of protection to end at some point of time. Once the term of copyright in a work ends, which must happen sooner or later, the work enters the "public domain" after which publishers are free to make their own adaptations and interpretations of it, as in the case of other classic works.

Under the Universal Copyright Convention the minimum term of such protection is normally 25 years after the death of the author and under the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works it is 50 years. India is a member of both conventions. While it is open to a country to extend the term beyond the minimum, it cannot impose such longer term on other countries. Therefore, if India were to extend the term of protection, most other countries would be under no obligation to provide such extended term and the Indian works affected could be republished in those countries freely but not in India.

The Government appreciate the concern which has been expressed regarding the works of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore which, like other great works, from part of the common heritage of mankind. The provisions of the Copyright Act, 1957 are under comprehensive review keeping in view many suggestions for amendment of its provisions which have been received and the experience which has been obtained in its working and this issue is being duly considered along with the other relevant issues.

Termination of Project on Intensive Care Therapy on Rabie

*39. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research has terminate a nine month old project on the intensive care therapy for the rabies patients in the country when it was making a breakthrough;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the researchers of the project; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

ICMR have terminated a research project on rabies, as the Emeritus Scientist, who was conducting it, expired. Representations have been received from the staff engaged on the project. However, the staff on extra-mural projects like the one on rabies is engaged only for the duration of the project.

Aids Care Units in the Country

*40. DR. NAREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of AIDS Care Units in the country and in Delhi;

(b) whether there is any proposal to establish some more such units; and